

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9038

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MFA OFFICER GLEISSNER TO JOIN UN SECRETARIAT

1. MINISTER HEINRICH GLEISSNER, WHO HEADS MFA WESTERN EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN SECTION, IS BEING GIVEN LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ACCEPT TWO-YEAR ASSIGNMENT TO UN SECRETARIAT BEGINNING END OF OCTOBER. HE INDICATED MOVE WAS BEING MADE AT BEHEST OF UNSECGEN WALDHEIM AND AUSTRIAN FONMIN BIELKA AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE POSITION OF SECRETARY TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND CHIEF OF UN SECURITY AFFAIRS SECTION.

2. GLEISSNER, WHO WAS BORN ON 12 DECEMBER 1927 IN LINZ, HAS BEEN IN THE AUSTRIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE SINCE MID-1950'S. HIS MOST RECENT FOREIGN POSTING WAS AS CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK, POSITION HE HELD UNTIL HIS RETURN TO VIENNA IN 1974. GLEISSNER IS BACHELOR WHO APPRECIATES GOOD LIVING AND SOCIAL WHIRL AFTER WORKING HOURS. HE LIKES TO TALK AND IS INFORMAL AND RELAXED IN PERSONAL RELATIONS. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND SOME FRENCH. HE RECENTLY UNDERWENT MINOR THROAT OPERATION TO REMOVE A NON-MALIGNANT GROWTH. HIS MANNERISM OF PULLING FREQUENTLY ON HIS TIE RELATES TO EARLIER DIFFICULTY WITH GROWTH WHICH GENERATED FEELING OF CHOKING.

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3. EMBASSY HAS FOUND GLEISSNER TO BE RESPONSIBLE, COMPETENT OFFICER, GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. HE COMES FROM WELL-KNOWN CONSERVATIVE FAMILY FROM PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. HIS FATHER, WHO WAS FOR MANY YEARS GOVERNOR OF UPPER AUSTRIA, WORKED CLOSELY WITH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS IN AUSTRIA DURING OCCUPATION DAYS (1945-55) AND IS GREAT ADMIRER OF U.S.

4. CHOICE OF GLEISSNER FOR UN POST CAN BE READ AS PART OF AUSTRIAN SCENARIO TO SUPPORT WALDHEIM REELECTION AS UN SEC GEN. ACCORDINGLY, GLEISSNER CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT NOT TO ANTAGONIZE EITHER RUSSIANS OR CHINESE, ONE OF EACH OF WHOM, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL SERVE AS DEPUTIES TO GLEISSNER.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PROVIDE USUN WITH ANY ADDITIONAL BIO INFORMATION AVAILABLE. BUCHANAN

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